



# The Volunteer Voice

ISSUE ONE

JANUARY 30, 2015

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**Tickets are still available!**  
**VALENTINE'S EVE CELEBRATION**

TO BENEFIT  
**VANDERBILT REHABILITATION CENTER**

**Friday, Feb 13 at 6 pm**  
**Atlantic Beach Club**

**Call 401-845-1638 to make your reservation!**



## Spotlight on **Serafina DeAscentis: Quilter Extraordinaire**

Story by Dick Allphin

For over 20 years Serafina has been quilting and knitting for our Newport Hospital patients. Her busy hands have logged in over 500 hours to knit finger puppets for children having a visit to the emergency room, and sew baby quilts. Recently, Lisa Coble, Director of Volunteers, asked Serafina if she would craft quilts for patients receiving end-of-life care. The quilts create a warm, homey atmosphere for the patient and their loved ones. Each quilt features unique geometric patterns and gorgeous color combinations.

Over the years Serafina has sewn hundreds of quilts to donate and give as gifts. The quilt backing is a flannel sheet. One sheet can make three quilt backs. She has a large circle of friends who supply her with their leftover fabric. The quilt filler is recycled polyester batting.

Serafina said that if she made a quilt in one "sitting" it would take about 8 hours, but she usually makes one over several days.

Serafina and her husband Hugo, a retired Newport fireman, raised five children and have been married for 67 years. Watch for Serafina's handcrafted quilts, placemats, and other fine items for sale every year at the annual Auxiliary Holiday Craft Fair.



Serafina displays one of her comfort quilts.

*"Thank you so much for the beautiful, handcrafted quilts you are supplying for our patients. They are providing a warm and cared-for environment for our patients, as well as a comforting memory for our patients' loved ones after they have passed."*

**-Lindsey Corrente, R.N.**  
**Manger, Turner 4 Medical Surgical Unit**

## 10-Year Anniversary of Comfort Care Program

In January 2005 the Comfort Care Team was launched to offer patients hand massage, guided imagery tapes and relaxation music. The new team of volunteers completed training with a registered massage therapist. CD players, music and hand lotion were purchased. Over the years we added Reiki trainings and implemented the Request Line. Today as we celebrate 10 years of this successful volunteer initiative, there are nine volunteers that dedicate themselves to offering complimentary hand massage and Reiki sessions to patients and their caregivers. The team has also provided hand massage at the annual Stress Less Day, Employee Benefits Fair and community health fairs. Over the past ten years the Comfort Care Team has contributed 15,000 hours of service to promote relaxation and reduce the stress of a hospital stay!

### Thank you Comfort Care Team!

**Ann Marie Bernardi, Edwina Cloherty, Jane Conlon,  
Marlo Lawrence, Maria Martineau, Carmen Smith,  
Stephen Rosasco, Donna Violette, Jean Wilson**

*“Whatever the approach, the **Comfort Care Team** at Newport Hospital has been providing a wonderful experience on the Behavioral Health Unit. Whether it is the caring touch of a therapist's hands through hand massage or mindfulness breathing and relaxation through yoga or offering reading materials/magazines from the comfort cart or the simple stroking of a therapy dog — to relax the body and mind reduces stress, improves a person’s well-being and promotes health. All of these therapies used on our patient population are an adjunct towards mental wellness and recovery. Our Comfort Care Team services pose a common thread. The patient becomes relaxed, often drifting off to sleep, and the bustling, high-stimulating atmosphere of the hospital unit is transformed to one of peace, serenity and quiet for the individual patient. Our hospital mission statements are to serve the mind, body and spiritual needs of their patients. I believe that this team exemplifies that mission.*

**Happy 10-year Anniversary from the BHU team and  
thank you for your continual dedication!”**

-Christopher J. Paiva, RN-BC, Director of Behavioral Health, Newport Hospital

Lisa,

*I want to express my appreciation... Your volunteer Ann Marie presented an offer of Reiki to our patient and he accepted eagerly.*

*He expressed to me how appreciative he was for your time. I could tell that he benefited from the session.*

*I have often asked for help from your volunteer staff while I was an RN in ICU. Your volunteers are caring and supportive of our efforts of wellness for the patients and they offer a thoroughly holistic complement to the medical aspect of wellness.*

Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Heidi, R.N., PACU

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***

**Thursday, April 30, 2015**

**9:30 am**

**VOLUNTEER  
RECOGNITION  
BREAKFAST**

**\*Thank You, Volunteers!\***

Meal voucher was increased to \$5 starting January 2015. Enjoy your well-deserved refreshment break in the Tuscan Café!

## Spotlight on the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center at Newport Hospital

Story by Joyce Allphin

The Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center is getting a new look. Fresh paint, Pergo flooring in the birthing suites, new rocking chairs and couches are just some of the changes mothers-to-be will be seeing in the next few months, says Birthing Center Manager Debra Venancio, a 41-year veteran in Obstetrics at Newport Hospital.

The Birthing Center is well-known for high quality OB/GYN care and Newport Hospital is a Baby Friendly hospital, a prestigious designation given by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, to hospitals that effectively promote and support breastfeeding.

The team in the Birthing Center consists of obstetricians, pediatricians, family practitioners and an anesthesiologist. Two new OB/GYN physicians joined the team early this year: Gail Carreau, MD, and Ginny Bass, MD, are now part of Newport Women's Health and seeing patients. In addition, Karolyn Zambrotta, certified nurse-midwife, joined the team in November, 2014. She works with the board-certified physicians and provides services ranging from prenatal care to delivery and care during the postnatal period. The obstetrical nursing staff has national certification and Debra adds that "they do everything they can to satisfy the needs of the patient."

Patient satisfaction surveys at the Birthing Center have always been high. Now, thanks to generous donations from the public, the freshly renovated interiors will feel even more like home.

For more information about the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center, call 845-1110.

The OB/GYN physicians and midwife can be reached at Newport Women's Health, 848-5556.

### Kudos to Timothy Keefe of Newport, RI!



Tim is a dedicated volunteer in the Emergency Department. He has served over 200 hours in preparation for a career in medicine. He recently took the initiative to enhance our volunteer on-boarding process by creating a comprehensive training manual for ED volunteers. There are three shifts a day, seven days a week of volunteer support in the ED. Tim has drafted a training document with color photos, captions and detailed instructions for the tasks volunteers complete. Additionally, Tim has taken on the role of "lead volunteer" and spent many hours coaching and orienting new volunteers.

***Thanks for your leadership and commitment, Tim!***

### *Congratulations*



**Carolyn Silva**  
**2014 Auxilian of the Year!**



SALVE REGINA

# Cares!



Conner Timpson and Daniel Parks of Salve Regina Men's Lacrosse Team donated a portable DVD player and 30 movies for the Comfort Cart.



Melanie Tomlinson and Kathleen Rendos coordinated a service project to donate flowers and cards to patients.

